**Joint ECOP and ESCOP BLC Luncheon Meeting Agenda and Minutes**

**September 24, 2019 12-1:15 p.m.**

ECOP Budget and Legislative Committee Charge

* Within the [ECOP core themes and annual goals](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.aplu.org_cesgoals&d=DwMFAg&c=nE__W8dFE-shTxStwXtp0A&r=b8iBBYFXZH63g8-CUtSYmw&m=dwtJ92ajcz0KcK9N-pnB36ALcBCN8bYDwKFbGWAkdUM&s=i5bkCLWq4cxrgqYbou1cCGkJfZXmUctdQ14dFr9IA_k&e=), establish a federal legislative, budget, and advocacy agenda for the Cooperative Extension Section (CES).
* Represent Extension priorities to the Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) and Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP).
* Encourage APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) support and implementation of CES priorities.
* Provide information to Council for Agricultural Research, Extension & Teaching (CARET) and other customer groups for use in effectively advocating on behalf of the System’s priorities at the federal level.
* Work with the advocacy firm engaged by the BAA Policy Board of Directors to identify strategies for moving the BAC and other Extension federal authorization and appropriations agendas forward.
* Through the BLC chair, actively engage with the BAA BAC to advance Cooperative Extension legislative and budget priorities.
* Scan the federal landscape including USDA and other federal departments to identify legislative and budget opportunities in alignment with the ECOP priorities.
* Recommend the formation, coordination, monitoring, and discharging of task forces related to national funding priorities.
* Working with ECOP Executive Committee, manage decision-making regarding signing onto advocacy letters.

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee Charge

The ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC) is charged with developing annual justifications for the federal budget process, in consultation with other sections of the BAA and other stakeholders; recommending appropriate science and technology programs that are linked to multistate and national research initiatives; and providing guidance in the assessment of impacts resulting from SAES/ARD system.

**Participants:** Please see [attendee contact](#attendees) list below.

**Action Items:**

* Action: Jon Boren will work with Ernie Minton to prepare a template to uniformly collect state-level leveraging efforts to Federal Capacity funds.

**AGENDA and MINUTES:**

1. **Introductions** (Jon, Jeff) – Jeff and Jon led introductions around the room. Please see attached attendee contact list.
2. **Strategic Realignment Advocacy Update** (Doug, Jeff)
   1. Doug Steele gave the background report on our Strategic Realignment efforts.
      1. July PBD meeting suggested realigning NIFA budget around 15 priorities (plus the two new lines, so 17), then discussed going down to 6-7 lines. Some suggested even dropping to 1.
      2. PBD accepted the Strategic Realignment committee report and considered the work of the committee complete. A formal communication will come in the future.
   2. Doug indicated that Scott Angle said NIFA’s plan is to go down to 18 lines, although Congress will make the final decision. There is strong alignment between the two (different) efforts. A written report for Congress is needed by the end of the month on the plan. Doug and Scott are working to be as transparent as possible with this process and to try aligning our efforts with those of NIFA. An update from APLU and Cornerstone coming soon on future efforts.
   3. Question: How/when can we work with NIFA on aligning our budget consolidation efforts? Hunt Shipman, via Zoom: President’s budget is underway now, so now is the best time to begin. Early Nov/Dec for OMB feedback, final numbers ready the first week of Feb 2020.
   4. Question: How are we positioned with stakeholders? Doug: Discussions are still internal, but we need to engage with external constituents soon and carefully. We need to be in as much alignment with NIFA before going public.
   5. If lines are consolidated, programs will still be funded at the same amount as last year.
   6. Question: What about increases? There is no new money, so the result is either cuts or funds moved around. We need to focus on **why** our funding lines are so critical and **what they do** to improve lives, while also emphasizing ROI/leveraging of our six lines (capacity and AFRI). Doug wants to establish the value of LGUs to the public like never before. Perhaps sharing states’ formula for matching Federal Capacity with a uniform template would provide the most accurate leveraging information. **Action: Jon Boren will work with Ernie Minton to prepare a template to uniformly collect state-level leveraging efforts to Federal Capacity funds. Note that his has been a component of prior advocacy efforts.**
   7. Jeff: Perhaps if we start our advocacy efforts sooner in the preceding fall, instead of early spring, we’ll have more success in reaching our budget goals with the Federal budget.
3. **Budget Priority Setting and Advocacy Discussion** (Jon, Jeff)
   1. 7-year Advocacy and Outcomes (Jeff, Cornerstone (*invited zoom)*; attachment)
      1. Jeff described the document he provided and encouraged the group to think more long-term, budget-wise.
      2. Hunt stated that in years when budgets remain the same as previous, this is usually because of a Continuing Resolution (CR).
      3. Regarding Doug and Jeff’s thoughts on changing dates of advocacy efforts, we should start discussions during Joint COPs instead of January and act in November (around APLU Annual Meeting time) so we be on the forefront of budget talks, rather than losing our chance because others acted sooner.
      4. Doug floated the idea of increasing by $1B over 5-years in concert with key stakeholder groups. More to come on this.
      5. Glenda suggested that we need efforts to get our university presidents involved in this advocacy process for maximum success.
   2. BAC/PBD Calendar Future Process (Jon, Jeff, Doug (*invited)*; attachment)
      1. Perhaps a calendar of efforts and processes would be useful. Doug and Jeff indicated that there is a draft in the works, but it is subject to change and has only been passed through ECOP and ESCOP.
4. **ECOP and ESCOP BLC Meeting Opportunities** (Rick): Refer to the attached letter to Doug suggesting possible dates. This item was not discussed because we ran out of meeting time.
5. **Open Topics** – none, due to time constraints.

**BLC ECOP/ESCOP Joint Meetin****g Attendee and Contact List**

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